

Annual Operating Instructions

For the
Teton Basin Ranger District
Idaho/Wyoming
Driggs, Idaho

2010

Caribou- Targhee National Forest
Intermountain Region

Annual Operating Instructions

J. C. SIDDOWAY

RED MOUNTAIN, TWIN CREEK, AND CANYON S&G ALLOTMENTS

2010

PLEASE CONTACT US FIVE DAYS IN ADVANCE OF STOCKING THE ALLOTMENT

Permit Information

Number of livestock authorized to graze this year.	Season of Use
1000 head ewe/lamb	8/10 -9/20
3 head of horses	8/10 – 9/20

The band will continue to graze these allotments with a variable period of use system consisting of three allotments. The sheep will start on the Canyon Allotment. The sheep will graze the Calamity Creek and both forks of Canyon Creek before moving towards Elk Flat. The sheep will use the remainder of the Red Mountain allotment and trail out to the North Pine Creek unit. Sheep are no longer authorized in the Drake Creek drainage, which is in the Westside C&H Allotment. Lambs will be shipped from Pine Creek Pass in the fall. The Alligator Lake prescribed burn took place in the fall of 2006 and burned roughly 600 acres on the Twin Creek allotment. Sheep may resume grazing this area in 2009 if the authorized officer finds the area to be sufficiently recovered from the fire. To help retain vegetation to carry fire for the Red Mountain prescribed fire. Avoid grazing the Red Creek and Corral Creek Drainages from the sheep driveway 050 trail to the top of the East Ridge (Teton River Drainage).

COMPLIANCE

This AOI is a yearly agreement that is part of your grazing permit consistent with Part 1, item 3 and Part 2, Item 8 (a). It is a working document, and situations may develop during the grazing season which requires changes to these instructions. If this becomes necessary, or if you cannot comply with some part of these instructions, contact the District Ranger and obtain approval before initiating changes or deviating from these instructions.

GRAZING STANDARDS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan Standards are as follows:

1. Within the Aquatic Influence Zone (AIZ):
 - a. At least four inches of stubble must remain along the hydric greenline (HGL) at the end of the grazing period. The HGL is the first permanent vegetation next to the waters edge.
 - b. Away from the HGL, at least three inches of stubble will be left on the key riparian species at the end of the grazing period.

2. No more than 30 percent use of the current year's growth is allowed on the woody riparian vegetation (i.e., willows)
3. Allowable use on grasses and forbs in the uplands is 45 percent (dry weight); on upland shrubs (i.e., mountain mahogany) it is 35 percent of the current year's growth.

Once these use rates are reached the sheep will have to be moved to the next unit or they may be required to leave the Forest prior to the end of the grazing season. As you know this can be a concern due to the possibility of a below normal moisture summer ahead. Please consider how you may be able to accommodate your livestock on alternate feed sources if they are required to leave the Forest Prior to the end of the grazing season.

OWNERSHIP

Sheep grazed under the Term Grazing Permit, must be owned by the term permit holder and branded with brand(s) authorized by the permit.

RANGE IMPROVEMENTS

Fences and water developments will be maintained prior to Sheep entering the allotment. The Sheep access trails that were constructed through thick stands of brush and trees should be maintained to ensure sheep may utilize available forage in the uplands to lessen the use in the riparian areas.

We would like to review the allotment with you this summer to assess the needs of range improvements and overall management of the allotment. The authorized officer will contact you with a meeting date.

We appreciate your cooperation in helping in the control of noxious weeds. Remember, all livestock feed or straw brought on to the forest has to be certified weed free. We will be treating weeds again this season. Please report to us any new weed patches we have not been treating in the past.

MOTORIZED ACCESS

The Revised Targhee Forest Plan restricts motorized travel to designated routes only. For administrative purposes, grazing permittee(s) will be issued a permit to travel cross-country to maintain facilities for up to two vehicles per week. This permit should be adequate to allow you to repair water troughs, fences, and other range improvements identified in your Term Grazing Permit on pages 6-8. For projects that will require the permittee to travel off designated routes more than two times per week an additional permit will be required. For permittee/public safety and grazing management you will be allowed to park camp off designated route or behind locked gates on trail _____ during the period _____ to _____. **Remember**, anywhere you drive the public will follow. We will discuss this process further during our spring meeting.

ALLOTMENT MANAGEMENT

Good herding practices and wise salt placement will be needed to avoid over use of the riparian areas. No salt should be placed within ¼ mile of any created opening with trees less than 6 feet tall. Care should be taken by the herders to water sheep early in the morning and then herd the sheep away from streams before they bed down for the afternoon.

Please contact us five days before entering allotment for verification of range readiness.

Utilize side canyons and bench areas as much as possible. Working for uniform livestock use will allow you to stay longer on each unit. Don't graze cattle in plantations and clearcuts until trees are 3- feet tall. Any livestock feed or straw brought on the National Forest for camping must be certified weed seed free.

Stocks outside the permitted season or permitted area are considered excess livestock. When excess livestock are identified as belonging to a permittee; the permittee will be billed at the unauthorized use rate and permit action maybe taken.

RECORD KEEPING

Included in your folder is a page of general grazing instructions, an allotment map, and an Actual Use Record. Please fill out the record and return it and the folder to us at the end of the grazing season. We appreciate your cooperation in the past of writing your comments on the Actual Use Record. The comments are valuable to help us improve range management of the allotment.

I would like to thank-you, for coming in and discussing your concern about the allotments this spring. If you have any questions please contact, me or Matt Hoggan, Rangeland Specialist, at 354-2312 ext. 505.

Requested by:

/s/ J. C. Siddoway

Permittee

April 29, 2010

Date

Approved by:

/s/ Jim Robertson for

JAY PENCE, District Ranger

May 4, 2010

Date